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The reports of research published in this magazine are necessarily qualified by the conditions of the tests from which the data are obtained. Whenever it is deemed possible to do so, generalizations are drawn from the results of the tests; and, unless this is done, the conclusions formulated must be considered as specifically pertinent only to described conditions.

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# A STUDY OF MOTOR-VEHICLE DRIVERS AND SPEED IN CONNECTICUT 

By HARRY R. DeSILVA, Research Associate in Psychology, Driver Research Center, Institute of Human Relations, Yale University

FACTUAL DATA regarding the influence of speed on highway accidents are very scarce, although a great deal has been said and written about speed as a cause of accidents. Before this problem can be solved, it is necessary to find out who the speeding drivers are, how many there are, and when and where they drive. This can only be accomplished by coordinating the speeds of vehicles using the highways with certain facts regarding the individual drivers.
The first of a series of investigations to throw some light on speed as related to the characteristics of individual drivers, was conducted in Connecticut during the summer of 1939 by the Driver Research Center at Yale University, in cooperation with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the United States Public Roads Administration, and the Connecticut Motor Vehicle, State Police, and Highway Departments. This study was the first serious attempt to gather facts about the characteristics of operators whose driving speeds were accurately measured. Being the first study of its kind, it is somewhat fragmentary; but in spite of its incompleteness it is offered as a pattern that can be altered or amplified in future studies.

The findings of this investigation, which involved a comparatively small number of drivers, must be considered as tentative until corroborated by studies in other States. A driver-speed investigation has recently been completed in South Carolina and similar studies are now under way in other States.

A survey was first made of various main roads in the vicinity of Hartford, Connecticut, to select tangent sections of highway relatively free from physical hazards that might influence vehicle speeds. A description of each of the selected locations is contained in table 1. All observations were made on weekdays between the hours of $10 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. and $4: 30 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. The weather was clear and warm and the visibility excellent except during the studies at station 9 where there were intermittent showers.

Vehicle speeds were obtained with a speedmeter of the recording type described and illustrated in the

April 1940 issue of PUBLIC ROADS. Efforts were made to conceal the truck housing the speedmeter so that it could not be seen by passing motorists. Two black rubber tubes, stretched across the road 24 feet apart, were used as detectors for the speedmeter. Very few drivers were aware of their presence either at a distance or when passing over them as they resembled expansion joints. Two men near the edge of the road but out of sight of oncoming cars read the registration numbers of all vehicles traveling in one direction and recorded them together with the vehicle speeds.

About a mile down the road and out of sight of the speedmeter location all vehicles traveling in this direction were stopped by a policeman who motioned them over to the side of the road where the drivers were questioned by an investigator. As about 2 minutes were required to question each driver, several men were used for this operation to prevent the formation of long lines during the hours of heaviest traffic. The questionnaire used is shown in figure 1.

At the end of the day the registration numbers on the questionnaires were matched with the registration numbers and speeds obtained at the speedmeter location. When there was any doubt about matching the registration numbers the questionnaire concerned was discarded. Two thousand six hundred and sixtyfour questionnaires were identified and found to be complete enough for use in practically all of the subsequent analyses.

Upon completion of the field work, the information on the questionnaires was placed on punch cards and tabulated. ${ }^{2}$

OUT-OF-STATE DRIVERS TRAVELED FASTER THAN CONNECTICUT DRIVERS
The number of drivers studied at each location, their average speed, and number of miles traveled on the day interviewed are shown in table 2. The drivers of 74 light commercial vehicles were also interviewed but in this table, as in all other tables, they are excluded unless a separate classification is made for them. No data were collected for large trucks and busses.

Table 1.-Description of study locations

| Station | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Date } \\ & 1939 \end{aligned}$ | Day of week | Location | Direction of traffic studied | Type of highway |  |  |  | Posted speed limit |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Surface type | Number of lanes | Width | Shoulders |  |
| 1 | Aug. 8 | Tuesday | U. S. Route 6A, 3 miles west of New Britain traffic circle. | West-bound.-- | New concrete | 2 | Feet 20 | 5 feet oiled. | M. $p, h$. <br> (1) |
| 2 | Aug. 9 | Wednesday. |  | East-bound | do | 2 | 20 | do | (1) |
| 3 | Aug. 10 | Thursday -.. |  | West-bound | do. | 2 | 20 | . . . do | (1) |
| 4 | Aug. 15 | Tuesday | State Route 10, 3 miles north of Cheshire | North-bound | Concrete Uneven asphal | 2 | 22 20 | Extra wide | (1) (1) |
| 5 | Aug. 16 | Wednesday ... | State Route 10, 5 miles south of Cheshire | South-bound | Uneven asphal | 3 | 20 | Extra wide | (1) |
| 6 | Aug. 17 | Thursday-.-.- | U. S. Route 6A, 3 miles west of New Britain traffic circle. | East-bound . | New concrete | 2 | 20 | 5 feet oiled | (1) |
| 7 | Aug. 23 |  | State Route 15 , 1 mile south of Vernon Center ${ }^{3}$.- | South-bound | Concrete | 2 | 20 | ...do | 40 40 |
| 8 | Aug. 24 | Thursday | State Route 15, 1 mile south of Vernon Center..- | do | Concrete (wet) | 2 | 20 |  | 40 40 |
| 9 | Aug. 25 | Friday ........ | State Route 2, 2 miles south of East Glastonbury. | do. | Concrete (wet) | 2 | 20 | ._do | 40 |

[^0]Table 2.-Average speeds and total trip distances of vehicles observed at various study locations


TRAFFIC SURVEY
R.


Driver please check in the appropriate place:

1. Sex: Male_Female_
2. Single Married
3. Private driver_Commercial driver
4. Rural resident (less than 1000 population) City resident (more than 1000 population)
5. Traveling on businese for pleasure
6. Are you omer of car $\qquad$ , relative (indicate relationship: son, -

Fill in blank space:
7. Age Occupation or employee of owner
8. Hon many years have you driven a car How many miles do you drive yearly
9. Driver's license from that state
10. Miles already traveled today How many miles to go today
11. Number of occupents besides yourself; Wife or husband children , relatives , no relati Total number of occupents besides yourself
12. Make of car $\qquad$ Year of model
Truck


Figure 1.-Questionnaire Form Filled Out in Speed Study.

Women drivers comprised 17.9 percent of both the Connecticut and out-of-State drivers interviewed. As women comprise 19.1 percent of all drivers registered in Connecticut, the sample of drivers obtained during the study was fairly typical in regard to the proportion of men to women drivers. Out-of-State drivers comprised 44.5 percent of the total sample. This large proportion of out-of-State drivers is not typical of traffic on all Connecticut highways and was no doubt caused by conducting the studies during hours when most Connecticut drivers are at work, during August when there is a relatively high percentage of tourist traffic, and on through routes carrying a relatively high percentage of out-of-State traffic. For this reason the data in most tables presented are generally segregated by Connecticut and out-of-State drivers.

At all stations, out-of-State men drove faster than Connecticut men and at all but station 9, where a small
sample was obtained, out-of-State women drove faster than Connecticut women, the average difference being 3.1 miles per hour for men and 3.2 miles per hour for women.

Women drivers, both Connecticut and out-of-State, drove at practically the same average speed or at a lower speed than the men at all locations except station 9 where the women Connecticut drivers traveled 1.9 miles per hour faster than the men.

The average trip length for out-of-State drivers was much longer than that for Connecticut drivers. The average trip length was practically the same for out-of-State men and women but considerably shorter for Connecticut women than for Connecticut men.

The average speed for men drivers at the different stations ranged from 39.7 miles per hour at station 5, to 48.4 miles per hour at station 9. The high speeds at station 9 may be explained by the large number of drivers in a hurry to get to shore resorts Friday afternoon ahead of an oncoming storm. Under these conditions, the Connecticut women drove faster than the men.

The uneven road surface was probably a factor causing the low average speeds at station 5 , but the low average trip distance and the low percentage of out-ofState drivers probably had a greater effect.

Knowledge of the speed distribution of vehicles is necessary for the proper design of highways. Likewise, information about drivers in various speed groups is of fundamental importance for proper licensing and regulation of drivers using the highways. Average values for a number of characteristics of drivers traveling in each 5-mile-per-hour speed group are shown in table 3.

A comparison between the speed distributions found in this study and in a 1933-34 speed study in Connecticut shows that the percentage of drivers in the speed groups between 40 and 50 miles per hour has increased. In the present study the percentage of drivers traveling less than 40 miles per hour was only half as large, and the percentage traveling more than 55 miles per hour about three quarters as large as in the 1933-34 study.

The highest percentage of both men and women drivers is found in the 40 through 44 mile-per-hour group, as shown in figure 2. The average age of both men and women drivers increases from the low-speed groups up to the $30-34$ mile-per-hour group and begins to decrease as the $45-49$ speed group is reached. The average age of drivers in the high- and low-speed groups is lower than in the middle speed group. The increase
in age for the 70-mile-per-hour group may be attributed to the smallness of the sample. Women drivers as a group were 3 years younger than the men.

TABLE 3.-Average characteristics of drivers in various speed groups

${ }^{1}$ Motor Vehicle Speeds on Connecticut Highway, by C. J. Tilden, D. L. Morris, T. M. C. Martin, and E. W. Russell. Yale University, Committee on Transportation, 1936. (Included 73,171 vehicles.)
${ }_{2}$ Not classified.
Even more interesting is the fact that women as a group averaged about 5 years less driving experience, and performed only about half the annual travel, of men. This fact bears out the common assumption that the average woman driver is not as experienced a driver as the average man.

Neither the annual travel nor the years of driving experience show a clear-cut trend for the different speed groups. The speed group into which drivers with high or low annual travel or driving experience fall seems to be a matter of chance. The average annual travel, especially for men, is exceedingly high when compared to the average annual travel of 8,870 miles obtained for vehicle owners in 17 States through the highway planning surveys, and the average of 12,090 miles for men drivers in Connecticut as obtained by a Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department questionnaire in 1939. The reason for the higher mileage is that in this study a sample of the more active drivers who use the road during the daytime of weekdays was obtained rather than a representative sample of all drivers. A sample


Figure 2.-Frequency Distribution of Speeds.
of all drivers would include a larger percentage of nonowners who drive only when someone lends them a car and also a larger percentage of owners whose annual travel is relatively small.

Cars driven by women had more occupants than those driven by men. An important factor in explaining this is that over half of the women were housewives, many of whom were accompanied by their children. The high- and low-speed groups of vehicles had about the same number of occupants as the average vehicle.

DRIVERS HAVING HIGH ANNUAL TRAVEL AND NEW CARS PREDOMINATE IN HIGH-SPEED GROUP
The "trip length today" shows a fairly definite tendency to increase as the speed increases, as shown in figure 3. In other words, the farther drivers intend to go, the faster they drive. This finding is amplified later in the report.

There is a very slight tendency for drivers of highpriced cars to travel faster than the drivers of low-priced vehicles. Low-priced vehicles as a group averaged 43.9 miles per hour, medium-priced vehicles, 44.7 miles per hour, and the high-priced vehicles 45.9 miles per hour. All three price groups are well represented in all speed groups but 11.2 percent of the low-priced vehicles, 10.7 percent of the medium-priced vehicles, and 8.3 percent of the high-priced vehicles were traveling less than 35 miles per hour. The percentages traveling over 50 miles per hour were $16.4,19.7$, and 27.2 for the low-,


Figure 3.-Average Trip Length for Drivers Traveling at Various Speeds.
medium-, and high-priced groups, respectively. A distribution of the different classes of vehicle by sex and residence of driver indicates that women, especially Connecticut women, drive a proportionately greater share of the low-priced vehicles.
The average age of vehicle was found to vary inversely with vehicle speed (fig. 4). In other words, older cars predominate in the low-speed groups and newer cars predominate in the high-speed groups. The most obvious reason for this relationship is that the new cars will actually go faster, ride more smoothly and silently, handle better, and are generally in a better mechanical condition.
Table 4 shows characteristics of the individual drivers traveling faster than 60 miles per hour. Women comprised 17.8 percent of all drivers studied, but only 2 of the high-speed drivers ( 7.7 percent) were women.


Figure 4.-Average Age of Vehicles Traveling at Various Speeds (Includes Only Vehicles Driven by Men).

The men traveling over 60 miles per hour included practically all groups into which the drivers could be classified. Married and single men, owners and nonowners, Connecticut and out-of-State drivers, and men on business and pleasure trips, as well as a variety of occupational groups are included. The majority were traveling considerable distances during the day, although a few were going short distances. Over onethird of the drivers traveling faster than 60 miles per hour were alone, and one-fourth of them were accompanied by only one passenger. Models of cars driven

Table 4.-Characteristics of individual high-speed drivers
MEN TRAVELING OVER 70 MILES PER HOUR

| Study station | Registration | Martial status | Residence | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Purpose of } \\ & \text { trip } \end{aligned}$ | Relation to owner | Age of driver | Driving experience | Annual travel | Trip length today |  | Other occupants |  | Car driven |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Traveled | Going | Num. ber | Relation | Price | Year |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Years | Year8 | Miles | Miles | Miles |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Connecticut. | Married.- | Urban | Business | Employee... | 39 | 19 | 25, 000 | 200 | 212 | 0 |  | High...- | 1937 |
| 4 | do | do | do | Pleasure | Owner .....- | 48 | 17 | 10,000 | 18 | 10 | 0 |  | Medium | 1939 |
| 6 | do | do | Rural | Business. | do | 36 | 15 | 10,000 | 40 | 200 | 1 |  | Low .... | 1936 |
| 1 | do | do | ..do. | Pleasure | do | 60 | 22 | 10,000 | 35 | 25 | 2 | Wife and rela- tive. | Medium | 1939 |
|  | Massachusetts. |  | Urban | do | do | 28 |  | 35, 000 | 120 | 20 | 5 | Relatives....- | Low | 1939 |
| 3 | do .. | Single | -.do. | -do. | Friend | 22 | 6 | 5, 000 | 125 | 70 | 1 | Friend... | ----do | 1939 |
| 8 | New York.. | Married.. | -. do . | Business | Owner | 41 | 20 | 50,000 | 50 | 125 | 0 | Frien | ---do | 1939 |

MEN TRAVELING 65 TO 69 MILES PER HOUR


MEN TRAVELING 60 TO 64 MILES PER HOUR

by the high-speed drivers ranged all the way from 1935 low-priced to new high-priced cars.

Outstanding characteristics of the high-speed drivers as a whole are that drivers with new cars, and drivers having an annual travel over 25,000 miles comprised far more than their proportionate share. This is clearly shown by table 5 . Single men, nonowners, pleasure drivers, drivers on trips of over 100 miles, and drivers below 30 years of age also comprised a considerably larger portion of the high-speed drivers than of the total sample.

Table 5.-Comparison of characteristics of men drivers in highspeed group with characteristics of all men drivers studied

| Classification | Percentage of highspeed men drivers | Percentage of total men drivers in study |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Out-of-State. | 45.8 | 44.6 |
| Urban.- | 83.3 | 81.5 |
| Unmarried | 33.3 | 25.0 |
| Nonowners. | 33.3 | 27.4 |
| Pleasure trip | 54.2 | 47.5 |
| Annual travel over 25,000 miles | 50.0 | 22.0 |
| On trip over 100 miles. | 79.2 | 67.5 |
| Driving 1938 and 1939 cars. | 79.2 | 31.5 |
| Driving high-priced cars. | 12.5 | 8.5 |
| Two or more passengers. | 37.5 | 30.5 |
| Age group: |  |  |
| 16-19 | 8.3 |  |
| 20-29 | 37.5 | 29.7 |
| Driving experience, years: |  |  |
| 4 or less. | 16.7 |  |
| 5-9 | 12.5 | 12.0 |
| 10-19. | 45.8 | 37.3 |

Table 6 shows data relating to the characteristics of drivers in each age group. In all age groups except those over 60, in which a very limited sample was obtained, men drove slightly faster than women. Commercial drivers, including only those driving light vehicles, traveled at speeds considerably lower than either the men or women drivers of noncommercial vehicles.

Men in the 16-19 year age group had a slightly higher average speed than drivers in the 20-29 year age group. Beyond the age of 40 there was a definite drop in average driving speed with increasing age, for men drivers. The younger single men traveled at slightly higher speeds than the younger married men. Beyond 40, married men traveled as fast as single men. The differences are, however, very small and figures on larger numbers must be obtained before much importance can be attached to this finding.

Interesting information is presented in table 6 for each age group regarding the driving speeds of owners and nonowners, and the percentage of drivers in each group that owned the cars they were driving. A separate breakdown of the 20-29 age group is shown for these factors in table 7.

TABLE 7.-Characteristics of young drivers

| Age of driver, years | Drivers included in study |  | Speed |  |  |  |  |  | Owners |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Men |  |  | Women |  |  |  |  |
|  | ${\underset{\Sigma}{I}}_{\substack{5}}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { g } \\ & \text { B } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { n } \\ & 0 . \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & \text { W } \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & \text { Z } \end{aligned}$ | ज़ु -1 |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { n } \\ & \text { \# } \\ & \text { 3 } \\ & \text { B } \\ & 4 \end{aligned}$ | \% | ${ }_{\text {¢ }}^{\text {¢ }}$ | g d dren |
|  | No. | No. | M.p.h. | M.p.h. | M.p.h. | M.p.h. | M.p.h. | M.p.h. | Pct. | Pct. |
| 20. | 34 | 5 | 42.3 | 43.9 | 43.6 | 51.8 | 47.3 | 48.2 | 17.6 | 20.0 |
| 21. | 25 | 10 | 42.6 | 43.4 | 43.1 | 46.9 | 44.9 | 46.1 | 32.0 | 60.0 |
| 22 | 58 | ${ }_{15} 8$ | 44.1 | 47.8 | 45.5 | 43.0 | 45.8 | 45.8 | 50.0 |  |
| 24 | 51 | 12 | 43.3 | 47.5 | 44.7 | 41.7 | 42.3 | 42.0 | 64.2 66.6 | 58.3 |
| 25-29 | 231 | 66 | 44.5 | 44.8 | 44.6 | 44.3 | 41.8 | 43.0 | 68.8 | 46.9 |

## MEN HAD MORE DRIVING EXPERIENCE THAN WOMEN

As would be expected, the data show that for the sample obtained during this study very few of the men under 20 years of age were owners of the cars they were driving (see fig. 5). The percentage of owner drivers

Table 6.-Characteristics of drivers by age groups

| Age of driver, years | Drivers included in study |  |  | Speed |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Owners |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Men | Women | Commercial | Men |  |  |  |  | Women |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Com- } \\ \text { mercial } \end{gathered}$ | Men | Women |
|  |  |  |  | Single | Married | Owners | Nonowners | Total | Single | Married | Owners | Nonowners | Total |  |  |  |
|  | Number 57 441 618 597 269 124 22 | $\begin{array}{\|r} \text { Number } \\ 10 \\ 116 \\ 169 \\ 105 \\ 50 \\ 10 \\ 2 \end{array}$ | Number <br> 5 28 21 10 6 4 0 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p.h. } \\ 45.1 \\ 44.7 \\ 45.4 \\ 43.3 \\ 43.1 \\ \} \\ 42.8 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { M.p.h. } \\ \hline 44.1 \\ 44.5 \\ 44.0 \\ 43.1 \\ 42.3 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p.h. } \\ \text { 41.0 } \\ 44.1 \\ 44.7 \\ 43.7 \\ 43.4 \\ 43.0 \\ 42.1 \end{array}$ | M.p.h. 45. 3 45.3 44.9 44.5 41.9 40.9 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p. } . \mathrm{h} . \mathrm{i} \\ 45.1 \\ 44.5 \\ 44.7 \\ 43.9 \\ 43.9 \\ 42.1 \\ 42.4 \\ 42.0 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p.h. } \\ 39.8 \\ 43.1 \\ 43.0 \\ 43.9 \\ 41.7 \\ 41.7 \\ 40.4 \end{array}$ | M.p. $h$. <br> 44.1 <br> 43.1 <br> 42.6 <br> 432. <br> 40.6 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p.h. } \\ 58.4 \\ 44.3 \\ 4.7 \\ 43.5 \\ 42.3 \\ 42.4 \\ 44.2 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r}\text { M.p.h. } \\ 37.7 \\ 42.7 \\ 43.6 . \\ 42.4 \\ 43.3 \\ \hdashline+46.4\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p.h. } . \\ 39.8 \\ 43.4 \\ 43.1 \\ 43.1 \\ 42.6 \\ 42.4 \\ 45.3 \end{array}$ | M. $p . h$. 40.1 40.2 39.8 34.7 37.4 34.6 | Percent 10.5 59.6 74.9 79.3 81.4 81.4 90.9 | Percent 10.0 43.1 55.3 67.3 8.6 100.0 50.0 |
|  | 2,128 | 462 | 74 | 44.6 | 43.9 | 43.9 | 44.5 | 44.1 | 42.9 | 43.1 | 42.9 | 42.8 | 42.9 | 38.8 | 72.6 | 57.7 |
| Age of driver, years | Other occu-pants |  | Trip length today |  | Driving experience |  | Annual travel |  |  |  |  | Age of vehicles driven by men | Distribution of men drivers |  |  |  |
|  | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men |  |  | Women | $\begin{aligned} & \text { All men } \\ & \text { in Con- } \\ & \text { necticut } \end{aligned}$ |  | Studied |  |  | Registered in Connecticut |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Connecticut | Out-ofState | Total |  |  |  | Connecticut | Out-ofState | Total |  |
| 16-19. | Number 1.6 | Number | $\begin{gathered} \text { Miles } \\ 159.4 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Miles } \\ 118.6 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Years } \\ 2.0 \end{gathered}$ | Years 1.9 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Miles } \\ 8.300 \end{gathered}$ | Miles <br> 10,100 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Miles } \\ 8,900 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Miles } \\ 6.700 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Miles } \\ 9,900 \end{gathered}$ | Years 3.0 | Percent 3.1 | Percent <br> 2.1 | Percent 2.7 | Percent 4.8 |
| 20-29. | 1.2 | 1.5 | 165.0 | 162.7 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 20, 100 | 16, 900 | 18,852 | 8, 8 , 952 | 15,300 | 3. 0 | 22.8 | 18.1 | 20.7 | 29.6 |
| 30-39 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 185.0 | 160.3 | 15.4 | 12.1 | 21, 500 | 19,900 | 20,680 | 10, 220 | 13. 100 | 2.4 | 27.5 | 31.0 | 29.0 | 26.9 |
| 40-49- | 1.2 | 1.6 | 182.0 | 176.1 | 20.5 | $14.1$ | 19,200 | 19,400 | 19, 234 | $\begin{aligned} & 10,706 \\ & 8 \end{aligned}$ | $12.000$ | $2.2$ | 27.0 | 29.4 | 28.1 | 21.1 |
| $50-59$ $60-69$ | 1.1 1.2 1.2 | 1.1 <br> 1.0 | 164.9 172.5 17.9 | 178.5 149.9 | 22.8 24.9 | 15.7 21.0 | 18,500 | $17,700$ | 18,081 14,452 | $\begin{array}{r} 8,570 \\ 10,100 \end{array}$ | $10,400$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.5 \\ & 2.7 \end{aligned}$ | 19.6 | 19.4 | 19.5 | 17.6 |
| $\stackrel{60-69}{ } \mathrm{O}$ ver 70 | 1.2 <br> 1.2 | 1.0 <br> 1.0 | 172.5 <br> 171.4 | 149.9 275.0 | 24.9 23.9 | 21.0 28.5 | 14, 100 | 13,500 | $\left\{\begin{array}{r}14,452 \\ 9,700\end{array}\right.$ | 10,100 6,100 | $\text { \} } 6,800$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2.7 \\ & 4.2 \end{aligned}$ | 19.6 | 19.4 | 19.5 | 17.6 |
| Total | 1.2 | 1.6 | 175.9 | 165.8 | 16.4 | 11.6 | 19, 200 | 18,200 | 18,800 | 9,900 | ${ }^{2} 12,086$ | 2.5 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

[^1]

Figure 5.-Percentage of Drivers That Owned the Vehicles Being Driven.


Figure 6.-Comparison of Average Speed with Age of Driver for Men Who Did and Men Who Did Not Own the Vehicles Being Driven.
increased rapidly from 17.6 percent at the age of 20 , to 50 percent at the age of 22 . Above 22 years of age, the percentage of owners increased gradually until at 70 nearly all men driving cars were owners.

The average speeds for men below 25 years of age who owned the cars they were driving were slightly lower than the average speeds for men of the same age who were nonowner drivers (see fig. 6).

The average annual travel for owners and nonowners was practically the same, but nonowners drove newer cars. The average age of the vehicles driven by nonowners was 2.32 years as compared to 2.61 years for vehicles owned by the drivers.

Table 8 indicates that the heaviest concentration of Connecticut nonowner drivers was in the 20-29 age group. Beyond the age of 30 the percentage of owner drivers is greater than nonowners. In the case of out-of-State drivers the percentage of owners was larger up to the age of 50 , after which nonowners predominated. The proportion of owners among out-of-State operators reached 76.8 percent as compared to only 69.3 percent of owners among Connecticut motorists.

The number of women drivers studied was very small, so the results are probably influenced by chance to such an extent that the figures cannot be relied upon. However, the data shown by table 6 indicate that the small number of women in the 16-19 age group did not drive as fast as women in the other groups. There is practically no difference in the average speeds for owners, nonowners, single, or married women. Except for the exceedingly small group above 70 years old, the percentage of owners increased as the age increased.

There swas no clear-cut relationship between the


Figure 7.-Driving Experience for Drivers of Various Ages.
number of occupants and the age of the driver. Men under 20 years of age and women under 50 had the greatest average number of occupants, but whether this is typical can only be determined by further investigation.

The average trip length for young people was slightly lower than for other groups but there was no uniform trend.

Table 8.-Distribution of Connecticut and out-of-State men drivers by age and vehicle ownership

| Age, years | Connecticut |  | Out-of-State |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Owners | Nonowners | Owners | Nonowners |
| $\begin{aligned} & 16-19 \\ & 20-29 \\ & 30-39 \\ & 40-49 \\ & 50 .-59 \\ & 69-69 \\ & 70 \end{aligned}$ | Percent $\begin{array}{r} 0.5 \\ 18.8 \\ 28.5 \\ 30.6 \\ 13.8 \\ 6.7 \\ 1.1 \end{array}$ | Percent $\begin{array}{r} 9.1 \\ 31.9 \\ 25.2 \\ 18.8 \\ 10.2 \\ 4.2 \\ .6 \end{array}$ | Percent $\begin{array}{r} 0.3 \\ 14.8 \\ 31.9 \\ 30.6 \\ 14.6 \\ 6.3 \\ 1.5 \end{array}$ | Percent |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The years of driving experience for men varied almost directly with the age of the driver up to about age 40 after which the years of experience ceased to advance materially with increased age (fig. 7). Young women up to the age of 25 had approximately the same length of driving experience as young men, but beyond 25 the average man had driven a car for more years than the average woman.

The annual travel for men less than 20 years old was much lower than for other age groups. Above 20, there was an increase up to the 30-39 age group and then a gradual decline with an increase in age. This was true for both Connecticut and out-of-State drivers. One reason why the $30-39$ age group had the highest annual travel is probably the high percentage of salesmen drivers ( 30 percent) included in the study. Cor-responding figures for all Connecticut men as obtained from the Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department questionnaire in 1939 do not indicate as great a variation for the different age groups and the average annual travel for all age groups was much lower. There was practically no relationship between the annual travel by women and their age although the young and old women drove fewer miles than women in the intermediate age groups.

The average age of the vehicles driven by men in the $40-50$ age group was 2.2 years, which is lower than for any other age group. The average age of vehicle driven by the youngest drivers was 3 years, and 4.2 years for the drivers over 70. Although the average age of cars driven by elderly people was high, table 9 shows that they nevertheless drove a small percentage of the total number of old cars on the highway. Men in the $30-39$ year group drove 27.8 percent of all cars over 10 years old. None of the drivers under 20 drove cars older than 10 years.

Table 9.-Percentage of cars of various year models driven by men in various age groups

| Age of driver, years | Year model of car |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1922-29 | 1930-31 | 1932-33 | 1934-35 | 1936-37 | 1938-39 |
| 16-19 | Percent | Percent | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent } \\ 4.9 \end{array}$ | Percent $3.6$ | Percent $3.5$ | Percent $2.5$ |
| 20-29 | 13.9 | 32.9 | 36.6 | 25.0 | 22.2 | 18. |
| 30-39 | 27.8 | 25.9 | 23.2 | 26.2 | 26.2 | 30.3 |
| 40-49 | 19.4 | 21.2 | 19.5 | 22.6 | 26.9 | 32.0 |
| 50-59. | 19.5 | 8.3 | 12. 2 | 17.3 | 13.7 | 10.3 |
| 60-69 | 11.1 | 8. 2 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 6.5 | 5.7 |
| 70 and over. | 8.3 |  |  | 1.2 | 1.0 | . 7 |
| Total. | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The data show that there were more middle-aged drivers among the active drivers on the road than among the Connecticut driving population as a whole. The younger drivers constituted a smaller percentage of the sample than they do of all licensed drivers in the State. Samples taken during the evening hours and over the week ends would undoubtedly show a larger percentage of young drivers on the highway. There was a larger percentage of younger persons among the Connecticut drivers than among the out-of-State drivers for both men and women, but the difference was slight

In table 10, drivers are grouped by length of driving experience. For men, length of driving experience seemed to play no part in determining the speeds at which motor vehicles were driven. For women, the average driving speeds increased as the length of driving experience increased.

Table 10.- Average speed and age of drivers classified by length of driving experience

| Driving experience, years | Drivers studied |  | Speed |  | Age |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women |
|  | Number 193 256 371 423 495 271 86 30 | Number 68 110 124 79 58 20 | M. $p . h$. 43.7 44.1 44.4 44.1 44.1 43.7 44.5 44.2 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M. p. } h . \\ 42.0 \\ 42.7 \\ 42.4 \\ 43.8 \\ 44.3 \\ 459 \end{array}$ | Years 24.1 27.7 34.4 39.7 45.2 49.4 54.1 58.2 | Yeats 29.1 32.0 <br> 36.3 <br> 40.7 43.1 |
| Total | 2,125 | 459 | 44.1 | 42.9 | 39.3 | 36.3 |

Although there were no women with more than 25 years of driving experience, a considerable number of men had been driving 25 years or more. Most women operators had been driving between 5 and 14 years, whereas the majority of men had been driving between 15 and 24 years. This fact cannot be accounted for by differences in the average ages of men and women drivers since the average age of women was less than 3 years below that of men.

The following tabulation, including only data for men, shows that the mileage driven increased with an increase in experience up to the 5-9 year group. The average driver with 5-9 years of experience drove practically the same annual mileage as the average of all drivers studied.

Driving experience, years:

| 1 | 7,300 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2.-.... | 9, 800 |
| 3.-.-------------- | 14,300 |
| 4 | 16, 000 |
| 5-9 | 18, 100 |
| Average, all drivers | 18, 800 |

TRIP DISTANCE FOUND TO AFFECT DRIVING SPEED
In table 11, the operators are grouped according to the number of miles they had already traveled when they were interviewed, and in table 12 they are grouped according to the number of miles they still intended to drive that day.

Table 11.-Number and average speed of drivers that had already traveled various distances on day of study

| Distance already traveled, miles | Drivers studied | Speed | Distance already traveled, miles | Drivers studied | Speed |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 0-4 \\ & 5-9 \\ & 10-19 \\ & 20-29 \\ & 30-39 \end{aligned}$ | Percent <br> 1.6 <br> 4.8 <br> 12.3 <br> 9.3 <br> 7.9 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M. p. } h . \\ 38.6 \\ 41.0 \\ 42.1 \\ 42.1 \\ 41.7 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 40-49 \\ 50-99 \\ 100 \text { and up. } \\ \text { Total. } \end{array}$ | Percent | M. p.h. |
|  |  |  |  | 6.0 | 42.7 |
|  |  |  |  | 21.9 | 44.4 |
|  |  |  |  | 36. 2 | 45.6 |
|  |  |  |  | 100.0 | 43.9 |
|  |  |  |  | 100.0 |  |

Table 12.-Number and average speed of drivers that had yet to travel various distances on day of study


There was a definite relationship between average speed and trip distance. Drivers who had traveled short distances were driving at lower speeds than drivers who had traveled long distances. Similarly, drivers who still had long distances to go were traveling much faster than drivers who were near their destination. This could not be true had the total trip length been the same for all drivers.

A group of 698 operators who had already driven over 100 miles and were going over 100 miles more that day had an average speed of 46.3 miles per hour. Another group of 119 operators who had traveled less than 20 miles and had less than 20 miles still to go that day had an average speed of only 40.4 miles per hour. The five operators who had traveled less than 5 miles and had less than 5 miles still to go that day, had an average speed of only 36 miles per hour.

In table 13 operators are grouped according to their total reported daily mileages. The relationship between trip distance and speed holds quite well for all classifications (fig. 8). There were so few out-of-State drivers in the first groups that the average speed figures should be disregarded. A higher percentage of the Connecticut men than women were going over 100 miles. Nearly all out-of-State drivers, both men and women, were going over 100 miles.


Figure 8．－Average Speed for Men Traveling Various Distances on Day of Study．

Table 13 also indicates that the sample of drivers is heavily overweighted in long distance groups，which explains the high annual mileage for the average driver． Since speed increases with an increase in trip length， the table also suggests that the average speed of the drivers in the sample was higher than the average speed would be for a more representative sample of all drivers in Connecticut．

Table 13．－Number and average speed of drivers traveling various total distances on day of study

| Total distance today， miles | Number of drivers |  |  |  | Percentage of drivers |  |  |  | Speed |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connect-icut |  | Out－of－ State |  | Connect－ icut |  | Out－of－ State |  | Connecticut drivers |  | Out－of－State Drivers |  |
|  | $\frac{5}{3}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { g } \\ & \text { 品 } \\ & \text { B } \end{aligned}$ | $\sum_{\Sigma=1}^{0}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 믕 } \\ & \text { B } \\ & 2 \end{aligned}$ | $\sum_{\substack{\Xi}}^{\square}$ | 辰 | 云 | g 品 3 | $\sum_{\Sigma}^{5}$ | a 可 － | 宕 | g ¢ \％ |
| 0－9 | 5 | 3 |  |  | 0.4 | 1.2 |  |  | M.p.h. | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p.h. } \\ 30.7 \end{array}$ | M．p．h． | M．p．h． |
| 10－19 | 24 | 15 | 4 |  | 2.0 | 5.8 | 0.4 |  | 39.7 | 41.2 | 45.6 |  |
| 20－29 | 47 | 23 | 4 |  | 4.0 | 8.9 | ． 4 |  | 41.4 | 39.8 | 43.0 |  |
| 30－39 | 76 | 30 |  | 2 | 6.4 | 11.7 |  | 1． 0 | 41.6 | 39.2 |  | 41.1 |
| 40－49 | 101 | 20 | 3 | 4 | 8． 6 | 7.8 | ． 3 | 2． 0 | 41.0 | 43.3 | 34.2 | 41.7 |
| 50－99． | 383 | 91 | 45 | 8 | 32.5 | 35． 4 | 4.8 | 4． 0 | 42.5 | 42.0 | 44.9 | 40.2 |
| 100 and up． | 543 | 75 | 892 | 188 | 46.1 | 29.2 | 94.1 | 93.0 | 43.7 | 42．9 | 45.1 | 45.2 |
| Total | 1，179 | 257 | 948 | 202 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 42.7 | 41.6 | 45.8 | 44.8 |

Table 14 shows the relative number and average speed of vehicles by year models．Out－of－State oper－ ators，most of whom were driving for pleasure，had newer model cars than Connecticut drivers，most of whom（especially the men）reported they are driving for business purposes（fig．9）．Thus， 82.7 percent of the out－of－State drivers had cars of 1936 model or later， as compared to only 69.7 percent of the Connecticut drivers．The Connecticut women included in the sample drove later model cars than the men，but out－of－ State women drove about the same proportion of the newer cars as the out－of－State men．

A comparison between the percentage of registered vehicles in the year model group with the distribution of year models for the Connecticut drivers as obtained by the study indicates that the newer cars comprised a much larger proportion of the cars using the highway than they do of the total registration．Although 1938－39 models are only 14.5 percent of the registered vehicles，they comprised 33.9 percent of the sample． On the other extreme，vehicles of 1931 model or older comprised 27 percent of the registered vehicles but only 9.6 percent of the total sample．

Operators of late model cars，whether they were Connecticut or out－of－State drivers，traveled at higher speeds than motorists in older vehicles．It is particu－ larly interesting to note that out－of－State operators drove both old and new cars at higher speeds than did Connecticut operators（fig．10），indicating that the


Figure 9．－Frequency Distribution of Vehicle Ages．

Table 14．－Relative number and average speed of vehicles by year models

| Year model of vehicle | Vehicles driven by－ |  |  |  |  |  | Ve－ hicles regis－ tered in Con－ necti－ cut | Speed |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connecticut drivers |  |  | Out－of－State drivers |  |  |  | Con－ | Out－ |
|  | Men | W0－ men | Total | Men | Wo－ men | Total |  | ve－ hicles | ve－ hicles |
|  | Per－ cent | Per－ cent | Per－ cent | Per－ cent | Per－ cent | Per－ cent | Per－ <br> cent | M．p．h． |  |
| 1922－29 | 3.1 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.7 |  | S 38.7 | M． 41.2 |
| 1930－31 | 7.2 | 3.9 | 6． 6 | 3.5 | 2.0 | 3.2 | 27.0 | $\{39.3$ | 40.7 |
| 1932－33 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 3． 8 | 5.0 | 4． 0 | 12.8 | 39.7 | 42． 2 |
| 1934－35 | 14.2 | 10.9 | 13.7 | 9.3 | 9.9 | 9.4 | 17.4 | 42.0 | 45.6 |
| 1936－37 | 34.0 | 44.4 | 35.8 | 35.2 | 36.1 | 35.3 | 28.3 | 42.9 | 45． 7 |
| 1938－39 | 34.5 | 31.5 | 33.9 | 47.5 | 46.5 | 47.4 | 14． 5 | 44.0 | 46.3 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 44.1 | 42.9 |

character of trip as well as the age of the vehicle had an effect on the speed．

Tables 15 and 16 show the number and average speed of vehicles driven by men according to the number of occupants and their relationship to the driver．Lone drivers traveled at higher speeds than drivers with passengers．However，the difference was more marked for Connecticut than for out－of－State drivers．

Table 15．－Number and average speed of vehicles by the number of occupants
［Includes only vehicles driven by men］

 | Vehicles studied |
| :--- |
| Occupants in addi－ <br> tion to driver， <br> number |

There was a decrease in speed of Connecticut cars as the number of occupants increased to four（table 15）． The data on out－of－State drivers show that the presence of passengers had little effect on speed．It is interesting to note that 1.7 percent of the Connecticut vehicles and 3 percent of the out－of－State vehicles had five or more passengers in addition to the driver．

Connecticut drivers traveling alone or with occupants that were of no relation traveled a little faster than those


Figure 10.-Average Speeds of Vehicles of Various Ages.
Table 16.-Number and average speed of vehicles by relationship of occupants to driver
[Including only vehicles driven by men]

| Relation of occupants to driver | Vehicles studied |  | A verage speed of vehicles |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connect icut | Out-ofState | Connect- icut | Out-ofState |
| No other occupants. | Number 568 | Number 220 | $\text { M. } p . h .$ | $M . p . h$ |
| No relation. | 241 | 141 | 43.2 | 46.1 |
| Children | 19 | 17 | 42.3 | 42.8 |
| Wife | 119 | 194 | 41.5 | 44.9 |
| Wife and children | 72 | 169 | 40.2 | 45.7 |
| W ife, children, and relatives... | 10 | 28 | 36.5 | 46.7 |

with members of their family (table 16). A much greater proportion of the out-of-State drivers than Connecticut drivers were accompanied by their wives. Thus, 68.8 percent of out-of-State men had their wives with them as compared to about one-third of the Connecticut drivers. The percentage of Connecticut drivers that had no passengers was more than double the corresponding figure for out-of-State drivers. The reason probably is that a majority of Connecticut drivers ( 60.3 percent) were on business trips while a majority of the out-of-State drivers ( 64.5 percent) were on pleasure trips. (See table 18.)

## VEHICLES ENTERING CITY TRAVELED FASTER THAN VEHICLES LEAVING CITY

A number of characteristics for drivers in different occupational groups are shown in table 17. Chauffeurs were the fastest drivers and truck drivers in private cars were the slowest. The speed of salesmen was about the same as the speed of the average driver. Their annual travel was about one-third higher than reported by other drivers. The average annual travel for all drivers exclusive of salesmen was 15,900 miles, whereas the average annual travel for all operators, including salesmen, was 18,800 miles. The various occupational groups among women drivers had no marked differences in average speeds.

A separate occupational classification made of nonowner drivers under 30 years of age showed that a considerable proportion of the men were either students ( 23 percent) or salesmen ( 12 percent), and that the largest groups for women were teachers ( 28 percent) and housewives ( 20 percent).

Table 18 shows data for drivers grouped according to the purpose of the trip. Drivers on business trips traveled at approximately the same speed but shorter distances than drivers on pleasure trips. This holds for both men and women, and out-of-State as well as

Connecticut drivers, although the difference in trip distance was proportionately less for the Connecticut than for the out-of-State drivers. A higher percentage of women than men were on pleasure trips. The difference was especially large for the Connecticut drivers.

Table 17.--Average characteristics of passenger car drivers in various occupational groups

| MEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Occupation | Drivers inrluded in study |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Speed } \\ & \text { trav- } \\ & \text { eled } \end{aligned}$ | Age of driver | Driv. ing ex. perieuce | Trip length | $\begin{gathered} \text { Annual } \\ \text { travel } \end{gathered}$ | Other occupants |
| Chauffeurs <br> Professional <br> Students. <br> Salesmen <br> Unemployed. <br> Truck drivers <br> Others. <br> Tatal | Number 50 310 69 641 32 30 996 | Percent <br> 14. 7 <br> 3. 2 <br> 30. 1 <br> 1.4 <br> 46.8 | M.p.h. <br> 4.6 <br> 45.0 <br> 45.0 <br> 44.3 <br> 44.2 <br> 41.8 <br> 43.6 | Years 39.2 41.0 20.3 40.1 36.0 30.3 39.9 | Years | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Miles } \\ 212 \\ 203 \\ 195 \\ 171 \\ 174 \\ 188 \\ 167 \end{array}$ | Mises <br> 23,200 <br> 15,660 <br> 8.500 <br> 25.400 <br> 15,100 <br> 41,200 <br> 15,400 | Number 1.6 1.3 1.6 1.8 1. 1.4 1. 4 |
|  | 2,123 | 100.0 | 44.1 | 39.3 | 16.4 | 176 | 18,800 | 1,2 |
| WOMEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Professional <br> Housewives. <br> Saleswomen. <br> Unemployed. <br> Students. <br> Others. | 126 | 27.3 | 43.2 | 36.0 | 11.3 | 188 | 10, 500 | 1.3 |
|  | 216 | 46.8 | 42.9 | 39.4 | 12.8 | 155 | 9,100 | 1.8 |
|  | 9 | 1.9 | 42.3 | 38.8 | 10.2 | 120 | 10, 400 | 4 |
|  | 5 | 1.1 | 42.3 | 24.0 | 6.0 | 191 | 12, 200 | 1.4 |
|  | 13 | 2.8 | 41.4 | 23.8 | 4.6 | 147 | 10,000 | 1.7 |
|  | 93 | 20.1 | 43.6 | 33.4 | 10.5 | 167 | 10,700 | 1.3 |
| Total... . | 462 | 100.0 | 42.9 | 36.6 | 11.6 | 166 | 9,900 | 1.6 |

Table 18.-Characteristics of drivers by purpose of trip

| Trip purpose | Drivers included in study |  |  |  | Percentage distribution of drivers |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connecticut |  | Out-of-State |  | Connecticut |  | Out-of-State |  |
|  | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Wornen |
| Business Pleasure Combination Total | $\begin{gathered} \text { Number } \\ 711 \\ 400 \\ 68 \end{gathered}$ | Number <br> 58 <br> 186 <br> 13 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Number } \\ 294 \\ 611 \\ 43 \end{gathered}$ | Number 14 187 4 | $\begin{array}{\|c} \text { Percent } \\ 60.3 \\ 33.9 \\ 5.8 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ 2.6 \\ 72.4 \\ 5.0 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ 31.0 \\ 64.5 \\ 4.5 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent } \\ 6.8 \\ 91.2 \\ 2.0 \end{array}$ |
|  | 1,179 | 257 | 948 | 205 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Trip purpose | Speed |  |  |  | Trip distance |  |  |  |
|  | Connecticut |  | Out-of-State |  | Connecticut |  | Out-of-State |  |
|  | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Business. Pleasure.. | $\begin{gathered} \text { M. p. } h . \\ 43.1 \\ 42.3 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p. } h \\ 41.9 \\ 41.6 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { M. p. } . \\ 46.0 \\ 45.7 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { M.p. } . \\ 44.4 \\ 44.9 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Miles } \\ 109 \\ 119 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Miles } \\ 82 \\ 88 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Miles } \\ 218 \\ 268 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mites } \\ 231 \\ 266 \end{gathered}$ |

Table 19 summarizes the clparacteristics of drivers in a number of different group classifications. There were no significant differences between rural and urban operators in any of the factors studied. Eighty-two percent of both the men and women were urban residents.

Foreign-born men drivers had a slightly lower average speed than native-born men drivers. This may be due to the greater age or shorter trip distance for the foreign-born operators, who also reported a lower annual travel.

There were almost as many out-of-State drivers as there were Connecticut drivers. This indicates that the sample is not typical, since only on the main through roads would there be such a high percentage of out-of-State drivers.

The average speed of out-of-State men drivers was
about 3 miles per hour faster than that of Connecticut drivers. This greater speed, however, is probably attributable to the much greater trip distance of the out-of-State drivers - 254 miles as compared with 113 miles for the Connecticut drivers.

Table 19.-Characteristics of drivers by different group classifications

| Classification of drivers | Drivers included in study |  | Average speed | Age of driver | Driving experience | Trip length | Annual travel | Other occupants |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Rural residents: | Number | Percent | M.p.h. | Years | Years | Miles | Miles | Number |
| Men. | 394 | 15.2 | 43.9 | 38.8 | 16.4 | 173 | 18,200 | 1.1 |
| Women | 83 | 3.2 | 42.5 | 36.0 | 12.2 | 155 | 9,100 | 1.7 |
| Urban residents: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men. | 1,734 | 66.9 | 44. 1 | 39.4 | 16.5 | 177 | 18,900 | 1.2 |
| Women | 379 | 14.7 | 43.2 | 36.8 | 11.4 | 168 | 10,000 | 1.5 |
| Foreign-born men_ | 285 | 13.4 | 43.1 | 44.6 | 16.9 | 163 | 16,200 | 1.3 |
| Native-born men.- | 1,843 | 86.6 | 44.2 | 38.5 | 16.4 | 178 | 19, 100 | 1.2 |
| Connecticut: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men. | 1, 179 | 45.5 | 42.7 | 38.9 | 16.1 | 113 | 19, 200 | 9 |
| Women | 257 | 10.0 | 41.6 | 36.0 | 10.7 | 88 | 9,300 | 1.4 |
| Out-of-State |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men. | 949 | 36.6 | 45.8 | 39.7 | 16.8 | 254 | 18,200 | 1.5 |
| Women | 205 | 7.9 | 44.8 | 37.4 | 12.6 | 264 | 10,600 | 1.7 |

The difference in trip distance between Connecticut women and out-of-State women was even greater- 264 miles for the out-of-State women as against 88 miles for Connecticut women. From these data it appears that the chief reason why out-of-State drivers traveled faster is that they were going farther.

In table 20 drivers are grouped according to the States in which their cars were registered. The average speed ranged from 46 miles per hour for Pennsylvania and New York drivers, to about 42 miles per hour for Maryland and Illinois drivers. Although Illinois and Michigan are much farther away from Connecticut than the other States represented, their drivers did not travel as fast as drivers from other States. Since the number of Michigan, Illinois, and Maryland drivers included in the sample was small, the particular character of the drivers involved may have much more to do with the average speeds than their place of residence.

Table 20.-Average speed and trip distance for drivers from various States


A direct comparison was made between the speed of traffic traveling toward and away from Hartford, Conn., at a location a few miles from the city (at stations 1,2, 3 , and 6). At stations 1 and 3 the speed of traffic going away from the city (out-bound) was obtained, while at stations 2 and 6 , the speed of traffic going toward the city (in-bound) was obtained. Table 21 shows that in-bound traffic consistently traveled from 2 to 4 miles per hour faster than out-bound traffic, regardless of whether the drivers were men or women, or from Connecticut or some other State. Speed studies made
at the outskirts of Austin, Tex., ${ }^{1}$ and recent studies conducted by the Public Roads Administration in a number of States also show the same tendency for in-bound traffic to travel faster than out-bound traffic.

Table 21.-Comparison of speeds for out-bound and in-bound traffic

| Direction of traffic | Drivers included in study |  |  |  | A verage speed |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connecticut |  | Out-of-State |  | Connecticut drivers |  | Out-of-State drivers |  |
|  | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women | Men | Women |
| Out-bound. | Number | Number | Number | Number | M. p. h. | M. p.h. | M. p. ${ }_{\text {4 }}$. | M. p. $h$. |
| In-bound.- | 344 | 78 | 212 | 46 | 44.5 | 43.7 | 46.4 | 44.1 |

The factor of trip distance does not account for the higher speed of in-bound drivers. According to table 22 the proportion of Connecticut drivers on long trips is slightly higher for the in-bound drivers than for the out-bound drivers, but there is no significant difference among the out-of-state drivers. Table 23 shows that very few of the in-bound drivers had Hartford for their destination since all sections of Hartford fell within the 0-9 mile range.

Table 22.-Distribution of in-bound and out-bound drivers by total trip distance on day of study

| Total trip distance, miles | Out-bound drivers |  | In-bound drivers |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connecticut | Out-ofstate | Connecticut | Out-ofstate |
| 0-9 | Percent 0 | Percent 0 | Percent 0 | Percent <br> 0 |
| 10-49 | 30.2 | 2. 9 | 21.1 | 1.9 |
| 50-99 | 34.5 | 2.9 | 36.0 | 6.6 |
| 100-199 | 28.5 | 30.4 | 30.3 | 29.1 |
| 200-299. | 4.4 | 37.7 | 9.8 | 30.6 |
| 300 or more | 2.4 | 26.1 | 2.8 | 31.8 |
| Total. | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Table 23.-Distribution of in-bound and out-bound drivers by remaining distance to go on day of study

| Remaining distance, miles | Out-bound drivers |  | In-bound drivers |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Connecticut | Out-ofstate | Connecticut | Out-ofstate |
| 0-9 | Percent 9.3 | Percent | Percent $\text { 4. } 9$ | Percent |
| 10-49 | 45.8 | 6.8 | 41.0 | 12.7 |
| 50-99. | 28.0 | 25.4 | 29.7 | 13.7 |
| 100 or more | 16.9 | 66.1 | 24.4 | 72.2 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

The simplest explanation of the differences in speed of in-bound and out-bound traffic seems to be that after traveling at higher speeds in the open country, drivers lose their sense of speed and, therefore, do not slow down when they approach a city until congested traffic actually impedes their progress. Drivers leaving a city en route and city drivers starting a trip are still "speed conscious" and increase their pace gradually until they are well away from the congestion of the city. It seems that having attained a high speed, drivers tend to continue at the same rate until they are compelled

[^2]to slow down, whereas after being restrained by a city speed limit, they build up their speed very gradually, even after getting out of the city traffic.

Undoubtedly, the effect of proximity to a city on driving speed is modified by the size of the city and amount of traffic congestion in the city. Future investigations should attempt to throw more light on these points.

HIGH-SPEED DRIVERS HAD MORE ACCIDENTS AND TRAFFIC VIOLA TIONS THAN MODERATE-SPEED DRIVERS
The accident and traffic violation records of 813 Connecticut drivers, 216 New York drivers, and 95 New Jersey drivers were obtained from the Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey motor vehicle departments. Since the names of the drivers were not obtained at the time the questionnaires were filled out, only the operators owning the cars they were driving could be identified from the registration numbers.

To study the relation between the operators' open road speed and their driving records, two groups were made. The high-speed group includes all operators traveling over the maximum permitted speed of 50 miles per hour on Connecticut highways. The moderatespeed group includes all operators who were traveling from 35 to 45 miles per hour.

Table 24 shows the number of operators involved in accidents, traffic violations, and speed violations, and the relative proportion of accidents and violations incurred by high-speed versus moderate-speed motorists. The reason that Connecticut operators had high accident records is that Connecticut accident records extend farther back than those of the other two States. In New York only fatal and personal injury accidents are legally reportable, while in Connecticut and New Jersey property damage accidents in excess of $\$ 25$ must also be reported. This explains why New York residents had lower accident records than those of the other two States.

Table 24.-Traffic accidents, traffic violations, and speed violations for high- and intermediate-speed drivers (includes only drivers who owned the cars they were operating)

CONNECTICUT MEN

| Speed group, miles per hour | Drivers included in study | Percentage of drivers studied having- |  |  | Traffic accidents per 100 drivers | Traffic <br> viola- <br> tions <br> per 100 <br> drivers | Speed violations per 100 drivers |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Accident record | Traffic violation | Speed violation record |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 35-45 \\ & \text { Over } 50 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Number } \\ 372 \\ 82 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent } \\ 39.8 \\ 56.1 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent } \\ 24.5 \\ 40.2 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Percent } \\ 5.1 \\ 20.7 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Number } \\ 86.8 \\ 137.8 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Number } \\ 39.5 \\ 86.6 \end{array}$ | Number $\begin{array}{r} 6.2 \\ 31.7 \end{array}$ |
| NEW YORK MEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $35-45$ <br> Over 50 | 73 38 | 5.5 13.2 | 8.2 15.8 | 5.5 7.9 | 8.2 15.8 | 12.3 15.8 | 8.2 7.9 |
| NEW JERSEY MEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & 35-45- \\ & \text { Over } 50 \end{aligned}$ | 30 18 | 16.7 33.3 | 23.3 27.8 | 10.0 16.7 | 36.7 72.2 | 30.0 44.4 | 13.3 16.7 |

The table reveals some interesting facts concerning the accident records of Connecticut drivers. A greater percentage of the drivers traveling at speeds above 50 miles per hour had been involved in accidents and, on an average, they had 58.7 percent more accidents per driver than drivers whose speeds were moderate (fig. 11).


Figure 11.-Comparison of Number of Speed Violations, Traffic Violations, and Traffic Accidents for Moderate and High-Speed Connecticut Drivers Included in Study.

Similar results are shown for drivers with New York and New Jersey registrations. The number of records available were few but, with this reservation, it may be pointed out that the difference in accident records for fast and moderate-speed drivers was even greater than was the case with Connecticut drivers. The percentage of the New York drivers going over 50 miles per hour having accident records was almost $2 \frac{1}{2}$ times as great as for the moderate-speed drivers, while the percentage for the New Jersey high-speed drivers was twice as great as for the moderate-speed drivers. In both cases the accidents per driver were nearly twice as high for the high-speed as for the moderate-speed drivers.

The data in table 24 include speed violations as well as all other types of traffic violations. . In Connecticut the high-speed group accounted for more than twice as many violations per driver as the moderate-speed group. Less marked differences appeared for New York and New Jersey operators.

The high-speed group in Connecticut had four times as high a percentage of speed violators as the moderatespeed group. On an average, each high-speed driver participated in five times as many speed violations as each driver in the moderate-speed group. Similar but less marked differences are noted for New York and New Jersey operators.

A comparison of the accident records of high- and moderate-speed Connecticut women drivers showed that 23 percent of the high-speed group had at least one traffic accident as against 20 percent for the moderate-speed group. The high-speed group averaged 46.2 accidents per hundred drivers as against 27.2 for the low-speed group. By comparing these figures with those for the men (table 24), it may be seen that both groups of women drivers averaged only one-third as many accidents per driver as the men. One reason for this large difference is that the average woman has not been exposed to traffic accidents as much as the average man, since her present annual travel is only about half as great and her total travel during the years that
accident records were available was probably less than half the total travel of the average man.

A comparison of the average speeds of owners and nonowners of different ages (table 6) shows that young nonowners traveled faster than owners and that a great majority of young operators did not own the cars they were driving. These findings are especially significant in view of the fact that young people have a very high accident rate.

Not only did young people have more accidents than older people in proportion to the number driving but, according to the following tabulation, nonowners also had more than their share of accidents. Significant data pertaining to nonowner drivers are contained in the following tabulation:

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent- } \\ \text { alo } \\ \text { drivers } \\ \text { thatuterere } \\ \text { nonourners } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Fatal accidents in Connecticut (1927-36) | 51.3 |
| All accidents in Connecticut (1927-36) | 43.5 |
| Drivers licensed in Connecticut (1927-36) | ${ }^{1} 10.9$ |
| Drivers in speed study (1939) | 31.2 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Estimated. |  |

NONOWNERS, SINGLE MEN, AND DRIVERS OF NEW CARS PREDOMINATE HIGH-ACCIDENT GROUP
Nonowner drivers were involved in over half of the fatal accidents in Connecticut between 1927 and 1936 and in nearly half of all the accident reported. The proportion of owner and nonowner drivers in the Connecticut driving population has not been determined, so an estimate of the percentage of nonowners was based on the total number of licensed drivers and registered vehicles. Over the 10 -year period, Connecticut had 89.1 percent as many registered cars as licensed drivers. If this figure represents the percentage of owners, nonowners had a much larger percentage of the accidents than they should have had in proportion to their number. The percentage of nonowners as obtained by this speed study is not so far from the figure for the percentage of accidents involving nonowners. Thus, there is an indication that nonowners have a higher accident rate than owners.

If these findings about vehicle ownership are verified for larger samples of the driving population, they will be useful in attempts to reduce the accident rate.

Of the Connecticut drivers included in this study there were 64 foreign-born men and 325 native-born men whose accident records were available. Fifty of the foreign-born men and 259 of the native-born men had been involved in accidents. The drivers with accidents constituted practically the same percentage of each group. However, the accident rate per mile driven was slightly higher for the foreign-born men, since their annual travel was only 84.8 percent of the annual travel for native-born men (table 19).

Practically the same percentage of single men as married men had been involved in traffic accidents. On the basis of mileage traveled, the accident rate was 10 percent lower for the married men.

Table 25 shows that the percentage of Connecticut registered vehicles involved in accidents during the first 6 months of 1939 was higher for new cars than for old cars. The new cars were involved in more accidents, were driven farther and at higher speeds, than were the older cars. Although many other factors are inyolved, the lower speed at which older cars are driven is probably a very significant factor in explaining the lower accident rate.

Table 25.-Percentage of registered vehicles involved in accidents, average speed, and average annual travel for vehicles of different year models

| Model of vehicle |  | Connecticut <br> reqistered <br> rehicles in- <br> volved in <br> accidents 1 | speed 2 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | Approximate |
| :---: |
| annual |
| travel ${ }^{3}$ |

From Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department report Cars of Yesteryears. The figures on registered vehicles used in obtaining these percentages include transfers of registrations. Since a higher proportion of older automobiles are transferred than newer ones, the number of older model cars is higher than it should be. A careful check of the actual number of vehicles in use during a particular year will probably reveal that old-model vehicles show a higher accident rate than is indicated here.
${ }^{2}$ From table 14. Data for Connecticut men and women.
${ }^{3}$ Data only for Connecticut men who own cars.
There are a number of variables not covered by this study that may influence the speed of traffic. Since this investigation was conducted for the specific purpose of studying the effect on speed of factors relating to the driver, all other variables were eliminated, to as large an extent as possible, by the selection of locations and hours of study. Some of the other variables are:

1. Type, condition, and width of road surface.
2. Sight distance and highway alinement.
3. Type and density of traffic.
4. Diurnal, weekly, and seasonal changes.
5. Weather and temperature.
6. Speed regulations.
7. Regional differences.

Data necessary for a complete study of the effect of most of these variables are being obtained in connection with extensive highway-capacity and passingpractice studies being conducted by the Public Roads Administration. However, to obtain a complete picture of the characteristics of each group of drivers, it is essential that future speed studies of this nature include locations where driving conditions are not ideal. One particular group of drivers may travel at moderate speeds under ideal conditions but fail to exercise the same relative degree of caution under less favorable circumstances.

## SUMMARY

The findings of this investigation are necessarily qualified by the conditions of this survey and must be considered as specifically pertinent only to drivers represented by the sample obtained. They are:

1. Out-of-state motorists drove newer cars, carried more passengers, and traveled faster than Connecticut drivers.
2. Young persons drove faster than older persons.
3. Nonowners, especially the younger persons, drove slightly faster than owners.
4. Women drove nearly as fast as men.
5. Drivers on long trips traveled faster than drivers on short trips.
6. Lone drivers and drivers with passengers to whom they were not related drove faster than drivers with passengers related to them.
7. Newer vehicles were driven faster than older vehicles.
8. Drivers who traveled faster than 50 miles per hour had been involved in more accidents, traffic
violations, and speeding violations than drivers who traveled between 35 and 45 miles per hour.

Other points which the study indicates for this sample of drivers are:

1. Men drove nearly twice as far each year, were not accompanied by as many passengers, and had been involved in more accidents than women.
2. Women drivers under 25 years of age had had as many years driving experience as men of the same age, but older women had had considerably less driving experience than men of the same age.
3. Newer vehicles were driven more miles each year and were involved in more accidents than older cars.
4. Drivers between 40 and 50 years of age owned a relatively large proportion of the new cars and had as many years of driving experience as men in the older age brackets.
5. Men between 30 and 50 years of age traveled more miles each year than either younger or older drivers.
6. The annual travel for the men with less than 2 years of driving experience was relatively low, but increased progressively up to 5 years of experience.
7. The majority of older drivers operated old cars.
8. Vehicles approaching a city traveled faster than vehicles that had recently left a city.

## COMPILATION OF HIGHWAY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

The Highway Research Board has announced the publication of a compilation of the highway research activities of some 85 organizations, which include Federal Government agencies, State Highway Departments, colleges and universities, commercial laboratories, and trade associations. Entitled "Highway Research, 1920-1940," its preparation was a joint undertaking by the Committee on Research Activities of the American Association of State Highway Officials. F. V. Reagel, Chairman, and the Highway Research Board, R. W. Crum, Director.

The book contains sections on Highway Planning

Survey, Economics and Finance, Design, Materials, Construction, Maintenance, Traffic, and Soils Investigations. Each section is further subdivided to classify the material in convenient form for reference. There are approximately 1,500 titles of research projects, together with the name of the agency reporting the investigation, a brief statement of the scope of the work, and its present status.

The book, paper-bound, is priced at $\$ 1.00$ per copy and may be purchased from the Highway Research Board, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.



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Any of the following publications may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. As his office is not connected with the Agency and as the Agency does not sell publications, please send no remittance to the Federal Works Agency.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1931. 10 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1933. 5 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1934. 10 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1935. 5 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1936. 10 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1937. 10 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1938. 10 cents.
Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Public Roads, 1939. 10 cents.

## HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 462

Part 1 . . . Nonuniformity of State Motor-Vehicle Traffic Laws. 15 cents.
Part 2 . . . Skilled Investigation at the Scene of the Accident Needed to Develop Causes. 10 cents.
Part 3 . . . Inadequacy of State Motor-Vehicle Accident Reporting. 10 cents.
Part 4 . . . Official Inspection of Vehicles. 10 cents.
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## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

No. 76MP . . The Results of Physical Tests of Road-Building Rock. 25 cents.
No. 191MP. . Roadside Improvement. 10 cents.
No. 272MP. . Construction of Private Driveways. 10 cents.
No. 279MP. . Bibliography on Highway Lighting. 5 cents.
Highway Accidents. 10 cents.
The Taxation of Motor Vehicles in 1932. 35 cents.
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## DEPARTMENT BULLETINS

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No. 1486D . . Highway Bridge Location. 15 cents.

## TECHNICAL BULLETINS

No. 55 T ... Highway Bridge Surveys. 20 cents.
No. 265 T ... Electrical Equipment on Movable Bridges.
35 cents.

Single copies of the following publications may be obtained from the Public Roads Administration upon request. They cannot be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents.

## MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

No. 296MP. . Bibliography on Highway Safety.
House Document No. 272 . . . Toll Roads and Free Roads. Indexes to PUBLIC ROADS, volumes 6-8 and 10-19, inclusive.
SEPARATE REPRINT FROM THE YEARBOOK
No. 1036Y . . Road Work on Farm Outlets Needs Skill and Right Equipment.

## TRANSPORTATION SURVEY REPORTS

Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highway System of Ohio (1927).
Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highways of Vermont (1927).
Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highways of New Hampshire (1927).
Report of a Plan of Highway Improvement in the Regional Area of Cleveland, Ohio (1928).
Report of a Survey of Transportation on the State Highways of Pennsylvania (1928).
Report of a Survey of Traffic on the Federal-Aid Highway Systems of Eleven Western States (1930).

## UNIFORM VEHICLE CODE

Act I.-Uniform Motor Vehicle Administration, Registration, Certificate of Title, and Antitheft Act.
Act II.- Uniform Motor Vehicle Operators' and Chauffeurs' License Act.
Act III.- Uniform Motor Vehicle Civil Liability Act.
Act IV.-Uniform Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act.
Act V.-Uniform Act Regulating Traffic on Highways.
Model Traffic Ordinances.

A complete list of the publications of the Public Roads Administration, classified according to subject and including the more important articles in PUBLIC ROADS, may be obtained upon request addressed to Public Roads Administration, Willard Bldg., Washington, D. C.




[^0]:    1 Not posted; 50 miles per hour permissible.
    ${ }^{2}$ Down 3 percent grade.
    ${ }^{1}$ Financed by a grant to Yale University from the Esso Safety Foundation.
    ${ }^{2}$ The Aetna Casualty and Surety Company generously helped in tabulating the data.

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ As obtained by Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department questionnaire in 1939.
    ${ }^{2}$ Average annual travel from highway planning surveys in 17 states was 8,870 miles in 1936.

[^2]:    ${ }^{1}$ Motor Vehicle Sppeds on U. S. Highway 81 between Austin and San Marcos, Tex The Information Exchange, May 15, 1939, No. 69, Texas Highway Department

